IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of	)
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Steffen DALGARD	) Group Art Unit: UNASSIGNED
	)
Application No.: UNASSIGNED	) Examiner: UNASSIGNED
	)
Filed: November 30, 2001	)
	)
For: METHOD AND ARRANGEMENT	)
PROVIDING A VIRTUAL	)
CONTINUOUS CONNECTION	)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 1, 3-5 and 8-10 as follows.

1.   (Amended) A method in a data communication network for virtual continuous connection between a first system to other systems in said data communication network, said first system divided into layers according to the Open System Interconnection (OSI), OSI layer 2 (L2) using a PPP protocol, OSI layer 3 and 4 (L3 and L4) using a TCP/IP protocol, said connection provided by a telephone network connected to said first system by a modem or similar means compatible with said telephone network, characterized in:

establishing said virtual continuous connection on L3 with a second system by means of a control logic integrated with said PPP protocol in L2 by establishing a temporary connection with said second system on L2;

closing said temporary connection when a timer in said control logic elapses, still maintaining said continuous connection;

re-establishing said temporary connection when a new message within said continuous connection is sent from L3 to L2; and

executing incoming messages by means of said control logic and sending them to L3.

3. (Amended) A method as defined in claim 1, characterized in the step of resetting said timer each time a message is received from L3 to L2.

4. (Amended) A method as defined in claim 1, characterized in that said control logic is installed in a driver in L2 connected to said modem or similar means.

5. (Amended) A method as defined in claim 1, characterized in that said telephone network is a PSTN or an ISDN network.

8. (Amended) An arrangement as defined in claim 6, characterized in that the timer is adapted to be reset each time a message is received from L3 in L2.

9. (Amended) An arrangement as defined in claim 6, characterized in that said control logic is installed in a driver in L2 connected to said modem or similar means.

10. (Amended) A arrangement as defined in claim 6, characterized in that said telephone network is a PSTN or an ISDN network.
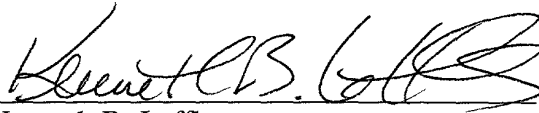
REMARKS

The claims of the originally-filed application were drafted in accordance with a foreign patent practice. The claims are hereby amended merely to present an initial set of claims for examination that conform to U.S. patent practice.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment to Amendment dated November 30, 2001

Marked-up Claims 1, 3-5 and 8-10

1.   (Amended) A method in a data communication network for virtual continuous connection between a first system to other systems in said data communication network, said first system divided into layers according to the Open System Interconnection (OSI), OSI layer 2 (L2) using a PPP protocol, OSI layer 3 and 4 (L3 and L4) using a TCP/IP protocol, said connection provided by a telephone network connected to said first system by a modem or similar means compatible with said telephone network, characterized in:

establishing said virtual continuous connection on L3 with a second system by means of a control logic integrated with said PPP protocol in L2 by establishing a temporary connection with said second system on L2[,]:

[•]   closing said temporary connection when a timer in said control logic elapses, still maintaining said continuous connection[,]:

[•]   re-establishing said temporary connection when a new message within said continuous connection is sent from L3 to L2[,]: and

[•]   executing incoming messages by means of said control logic and sending them to L3.

3.   (Amended) A method as defined in [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in the step of resetting said timer each time a message is received from L3 to L2.

4.   (Amended) A method as defined in [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that said control logic is installed in a driver in L2 connected to said modem or similar means.

5.   (Amended) A method as defined in [any of the preceding claims] <u>claim 1,</u> characterized in that said telephone network is a PSTN or an ISDN network.

8.   (Amended) An arrangement as defined in [claims 6 or 7] <u>claim 6,</u> characterized in that the timer is adapted to be reset each time a message is received from L3 in L2.

9.   (Amended) An arrangement as defined in [claims 6-8] <u>claim 6,</u> characterized in that said control logic is installed in a driver in L2 connected to said modem or similar means.

10.   (Amended) A arrangement as defined in [claims 6-9] <u>claim 6,</u> characterized in that said telephone network is a PSTN or an ISDN network.